

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1 and 35 have been amended. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 35 can be found at page 20, lines 13-31 of the present specification.

Applicants request that claims 35-50 be retained in the application because claim 35 has been amended into independent form and revised to correspond to the subject matter of claims 1-11. Consideration of amended claim 35 and dependent claims 36-50 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aratani (U.S. 6,030,678) in view of Yasuda (U.S. 6,221,455) and further in view of Kikitasu (U.S. 6,240,060). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Neither Aratani, Yasuda, nor Kikitasu discloses or suggests "a separation layer is provided between the first recording medium and the second recording medium, and the thickness of the separation layer is in the range between 1  $\mu$ m and 50  $\mu$ m," as required by claim 1. Therefore, Applicants submit that Aratani, Yasuda, and Kikitasu fail to disclose or suggest every limitation of claims 1 and 4.

Claims 1-3, 7, 8 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yasuda in view of Hasman (U.S. 5,526,338). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As noted above, Yasuda fails to disclose or suggest "a separation layer is provided between the first recording medium and the second recording medium, and the thickness of the separation layer is in the range between 1  $\mu$ m and 50  $\mu$ m," as required by claim 1. Hasman fails to remedy the deficiencies of Yasuda as it relates to claim 1. Therefore, claims 1-3, 7, 8 and 10 are not obvious in view of the combination of Yasuda and Hasman.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aratani in view of Yasuda and further in view of Kikitasu, and further in view of Welch (U.S. 5,384,797). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As noted above, Aratani, Yasuda, and Kikitasu fail to disclose or suggest every limitation of claim 1. Welch fails to remedy the deficiencies of Aratani, Yasuda, and Kikitasu as they

relate to claim 1. Therefore, claim 5 is allowable for at least the reason it is dependent upon an allowable base claim. Applicants do not concede the correctness of this rejection.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yasuda in view of Hasman, and further in view of Imaino (U.S. 5,555,537). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As discussed above, Yasuda and Hasman fail to disclose or suggest every limitation of claim 1. Imaino fails to remedy the deficiencies of Yasuda and Hasman as they relate to claim 1. Therefore, claim 6 is allowable for at least the reason it is dependent upon an allowable base claim. Applicants do not concede the correctness of this rejection.

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yasuda in view of Hasman, and further in view of Akahira (U.S. 5,527,661). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As discussed above, Yasuda and Hasman fail to disclose or suggest every limitation of claim 1. Akahira fails to remedy the deficiencies of Yasuda and Hasman as they relate to claim 1. Therefore, claim 9 is allowable for at least the reason it is dependent upon an allowable base claim. Applicants do not concede the correctness of this rejection.

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aratani in view of Yasuda in view of Kikitasu, and further in view of Moriya (U.S. 5,726,969). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As discussed above, Aratani, Yasuda and Kikitasu fail to disclose or suggest every limitation of claim 1. Moriya fails to remedy the deficiencies of Aratani, Yasuda and Kikitasu as they relate to claim 1. Therefore, claim 11 is allowable for at least the reason it is dependent upon an allowable base claim. Applicants do not concede the correctness of this rejection.

As noted above, claim 35 has been amended to track many of the limitations of claim 1, including "a separation layer is provided between the first recording medium and the second recording medium, and the thickness of the separation layers in the range between 1  $\mu$ m and 50

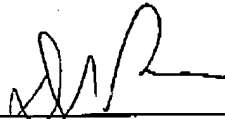
µm.” Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 35 and the claims that depend from it are allowable for at least the reasons stated above related to claim 1.

In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration of the application in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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